

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 have been cancelled by this Preliminary Amendment. Thus, claims 31-33 are currently pending in this application. For the Examiner's background information, U.S. Serial No. 10/047, 230 was initially filed January 14, 2002. A two-way Restriction Requirement was received and the elected claims issued into U.S. Patent No. 6,612,418. A divisional application, U.S. Serial No. 10/641,244 was filed August 14, 2003. Certain of those claims have now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,830,145.

However, claims 31-33, as originally presented were not granted in U.S. Serial No. 10/641,244. Also, an International PCT counterpart application, PCT/US03/00804, directed to all claims, including the present claims 31-33, was filed January 13, 2003.

The present application is the U.S. National Phase from the aforementioned International PCT application and is directed towards claims 31-33 as the remaining subject matter.

The amended claims set is provided herewith. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Claims 31-33 that are being presented received a favorable opinion in the International Preliminary Examination Report of the parent PCT case.

In view of the positive International Preliminary Examination Report, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the claims. Early notice of allowability is kindly requested. Please contact the undersigned if it will assist in expediting prosecution of these claims.

Appl. No. 10/501,308
Preliminary Amendment Dated: April 4, 2005
Docket No. 5570USWO

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Respectfully submitted,

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